Fearfull Prodigies
IN
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Seene neere the citie
OF
ROME,
In the Aire:

Between the Castle *Angelo* and the *VATICAN*.

As it was sent in a Letter by a Merchant of good credit living in *Ligorne*, to Seignior TORRIANO an Italian here resident in LONDON, and by him faithfully translated into English.

Mirabilis es, ô Domine, in judiciis tuis.

Printed at *London*, for *John Dobson*.
Febr. 6. 1643.

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Wonderfull art thou, O Lord, in all thy works.

IT is not unknowne to all the world, how that Scarlet Whore, which triumphs in the blood of the Saints, that sits upon her seven hils, she sometimes Empresse of the earth, the Citie of *Rome*, hath alwayes endevoured to shew it selfe the seat of Antichrist, the Pope, who by his perverting the truth of Christian Doctrine, and exalting himselfe above the Princes and Potentates of the earth, strives to extirpate Christs little flock, it being their fathers good will to give them a Kingdome. No marvell then is therefore, if the Almightie Power out of the vials of his wrath, and the cup of his judgements upon that place, which is guiltie of so many fornications, idolatries, and blood-sheds, as in the sequele discourse shall be manifested. On Christmas day, the day of the nativitie of our Saviour, *Anno* 1642. about two of the clock in the afternoone, from that hill

which was anciently called *Mons Tarpeius* on which the principall the Temple, consecrated to all the Heathen Gods, was sometimes situated, and now the Church of saint *Maria de Presa maior*. In which is probable are committed as many idolatries as were perpetrated in the other, was heard great and mournfull groanes, as if it had been of people now departing this life; when on the sudden, the aire which was verie cleare and faire, the dayes in *Italy* being as long in December as they are here in May and March; and the great Luminarie of Heaven, the Sun, operating with as much vigour, was most stupendiously darkened, lightning, fire and smoke ushering in a most hideous tempest of thunder, which in those parts is verie rare at that time of the yeare, by reason of the thinnesse and puritie of the aire, unsubject to vapours, which with dreadfull bolts, as if it had threatened dissolution not onely to *Rome*, but to all the Nations of the world; Heavens Canoniers discharging their fatall artillerie on the mountaine, with such speed and violence, that it seemed to rent (as it were) with an earth-quake, divers flames of fire breaking forth with strange eruptions out of the earth, as if it would have consumed the whole Citie: the people in the meane time being in strange and terrible amazements, thinking the day of doome had been come: the Popes triple Crowne falling from his head for feare, as I am certainly informed, and the Conclave of Cardinals in mightie feare and perplexitie, as it is conjectured; but that the Devill was concerned too great in them, would have repented them of their sins. For after the terrible flashes of lightning, with thunder claps, and the like hideous and fearfull sounds, which endured the space of a full houre, the aire began to cleare up, and the face of Heaven appeared as it were surrounded with a cleare shining light, and the noyse ceased, and about one began, which was of a shrill sounding Trumpet, after which came flying in the aire from the North and from the South, two dreadfull flaming Dragons of huge & extended bignesse, of them appearing to hover over Castle Saint

Angels, the Popes principall Citadell, and the other over mount Tarpey. In the middle space betweene which was seene the resemblance of a naked man, the prise for which (it should seeme) these infernall Combatants came thither to strive for: and to with huge out-cries and ghastly grones, which were plainly heard, the trumpets sounding as it were a charge, the two winged Devils made halte to encounter one another; the Dragon that came from the North, striving to seize upon the man with out-stretched wings and Harpentine tallons; when presently the other Dragon from the South came in as it were either to the naked mans rescue, or else with more furie to devoure him: at last, after divers hovering and dreadfull clashings together with their scaly wings, which sounded a far off like dints of swords upon fleecy Corslets, they furiously met, and like eager Faukons, or incensed Eagles, venc'voured to plume one another in their rapinous tallons; the man all the while casting forth pitifull sighs and heart breaking grones, as if he had seemed to implore assistance from Heaven; and the terrified spectators, who stood quaking with as much dread as humane fraile can doe at such unwonted spectacles. When after two or three gyres in the aire like angry Comets, the Dragons seemed to all their viewes, just over the head of the man, to close together, then could no man imagine the dreadfulnesse of the combate, &c. Grey-hounds with Mastives, Serpents with Eagles, nay, two encountring ships at Sea, seeming to be but models of this conflict, sometimes one Dragon, and sometimes the other having the better and extending their scaly mouths to devour that Phantome or Apparition of a man that hung in the aire betwixt them, and so joyning together beake to beake, wing to wing, and body to body, two cunning wrastlers never gave greater demonstration of skill then these two Monsters by their imbraces, striving to overthrow, nor to support each other. At last, after at least halfe an houres fight in this stupendious manner which

stroke at the beholders with an extremity of feare and amaze-
ment the Dragon that came from the North, in all mens view
seemed to have the better of the conflict, the other with
subtile and cunning rushes, as it were, rather to defend him-
selfe then offend his enemy, flying up and downe the emp-
ayre, whilest the other most violently pursued him; But as
you have seene in the races of horses, wherein the one at the
beginning runs at an easie rate, whilest the other is at his full
carreere and swiftnesse; yet at the end the horse that kept
a softer pace at the first, when the other is out of breath out-
strips him and gains the poll, and with it victory; so as neer
as could be conjectured went the fulnesse of the combat be-
tweene these two Dragons; for the Dragon of the North
having by delayes and jugling manner of fight recovered
breath, as Rams that returne to come on with the greater
acrimony and fiercenesse, most furiously returned to assault
the Dragon of the South, thundering upon his wings, which
flagged like sailes when they want wind, and piercing his
body with his cruell gripes; the other cast forth many lac-
mentable outcry, bewailing, as it were, his mischance, and
making such a noyse as souldiers doe that are vanquished,
labouring with might and maine to disingage himselfe from
the gripes of his cruell adversary, who still laid on fresh load,
so that the poore Dragon of the South was in a most distre-
sed strait, and so striving with all his diminished forces, at
last he got out of the reaches and imbraces of the Dragon of
the North, and then like an ill-bred Hawke, in a cloud of
sulphurous lightning, turned taile and fled, the Victor not of-
fering to pursue him, in an instant he was vanished, leaving
behinde him such an horrible stench as was enough to in-
fect the whole Region; the conquering Dragon in the inte-
rim giving forth many joyfull shouts from his dreadfull
throat, and insulting triumphantly in his victory, made hast
toward his incorporeall prey, the naked man, who was not-
withstanding visible, and as it seemed, sensible of his approa-
ching ruine; for with dolorous clamours he gave forth fresh

skreeks

[illegible] and distraction; at last it was heard plainly to pronounce in the *Italian* tongue, *Roma, Roma*, and in *English*, *Rome, Rome*, *Catholi*, which is in *English Rome*, thy doctrine is not altogether Catholike, in which certainly [illegible] natural quality to the truth. But to be briefe, this wretched, or leaft seeming wretched man, being now, as it were, in the very jawes of death, the Dragon of the North being even ready to swallow him up at a morsell, was heard in the ayre a very loud sound of drums, neighing of horses, and clangor of trumpets, when lo! out of a cloud to the North-west appeared an army of aerial souldiers in white garments, with red crosses in their front before them, and armed with swift and furious approach towards the Dragon, some of them shooting off muskets, which were plainly heard, the fire smoaking in their pans, and the smell of the powder perfect smelt below in the City; the Dragon no sooner amazed at the multitude of assailants, flew couragiously among the armed squadrons, and dealt a very deathfull dole amongst them, beating [illegible] and man with his scaly and impenetrable wings; so that divers of them were seene to drop downe, as if they had falne into some other region of the ayre, and so were no more: but the other souldiers couragiously charging this cruell Dragon on all sides, who vomited up flames of fire and sulphure, and at last with a hideous and fearefull skreech, extending its scaly wings, and so fell downe into the emptie regions of the ayre as the slaughtered souldiers had done, and were seene no more, but left that curfed and divellish smell behind him, that it seemed hell had belched up all his vapours and infernall Lethean fogs, the army of celestiall souldiers in the interim compassing the poore shadow of a man about, and so in triumph with Ensignes displayed, and Drums beating, departed with all the signes of victory and triumph; immediatly the ayre began to

cleare,

cleare, and the Sunne being full readie to set, it being then
about five of clocke, this dreadfull combate having indured
[illegible] houres, a more sad and heavie countenance,
and the Cardinalls and Senators of Rome going towards
their palaces in much amaze and alarm at discouring of the
effect of this present, and fearefull the Inhabitants of good
account going up to the top of mount Janiculo under the place
where the last battell was fought upon the Church-walls
and the Church-yard, they found diffused a great quantity of
blood, which lay there like water on the tops of the grass,
and thus they made evident report of so bloudie a fight, who
made as it a mockery, and interpreted is according to his
owne divellish fancie, that it portended the downfall of here-
tikes such as his Holinesse termes all true believers, that de-
ny his heathenish Supremacy and Apostaticall tenents.

Thus have I sent you a true and briefe narration of this
horrible and prodigious wonder, which you may consider-
[illegible] and report for truth, and so with my true respects
[illegible] to all our friends, I take my leave and rest

Your Servant,

Antonio de Sofi.

Rome, May 2.

FINIS.

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